

# Welcome to Conservation Biology

## Biol 370/ES 320, Spring 2023

Instructor - Robert (Bob) St. Clair, PhD      [robertstclair@uvic.ca](mailto:robertstclair@uvic.ca)

Brightspace <https://bright.uvic.ca/d2l/home/151330>

## General Course Information

(from Undergraduate Calendar<sup>1</sup>)

Conservation Biology - 20427 - BIOL 370 - A01

Conservation Biology - 21542 - ES 320 - A01

Diversity of organisms, functioning of ecosystems, and the impact of human activities on these. Topics include the nature of biological diversity; extinction and its cause; habitat alteration and fragmentation; effects of exotic species; economic and ethical considerations; practical applications and analytical tools; and legal frameworks for conserving species and habitats.

Hours: lecture-3 hours/week

- MTh 10:00-11:20   Eng/Comp Sci Bldg 116      Jan 09-Apr 6
- Office Hours: Friday 12:00-13:00 on Zoom or by appointment
- Contact information - by email - please put course number in subject line

Cross-listed courses [ES320](#) - Conservation Biology

Note - Credit will be granted for only one of BIOL 370, ER 313, ES 318, ES 320, ES 348.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.uvic.ca/calendar/undergrad/#/courses/Sy4SCwTXE?bc=true&bcCurrent=&bcCurrent=Conservation%20Biology&bcItemType=courses>

## Required Readings and Materials

### **Text: An Introduction to Conservation Biology by Anna Sher 3rd Edition**

Available from UVic bookstore in paperback or digital (either is fine)

- There are other excellent texts available, including old editions of Sher and Primack, but I will be referring to, and using illustrations from, the required text. I'll post a list of alternative texts on Brightspace.
- Required readings will be posted on BrightSpace

### BrightSpace resources include

- Lecture notes (posted before class when available; otherwise after it)
- Recorded lectures (subject to technical difficulties)
- Assignment instructions
- Resources to support lectures, assignments, and general interest
- Forum posts

### Instructor Information - Robert (Bob) St. Clair, PhD

- MSc University of Victoria - natural history of painted turtles
- PhD University of Oklahoma - environmental sex determination in box turtles
- Post-doc University of Victoria - habitat preferences of rubber boas
- Teaching - U of Alberta, UNBC, NAIT, U Vic
- Consulting - statistics and study design

### My ideal student:

- Participates in lectures and asks questions
- Demonstrates understanding of conservation biology
- Evaluates questions and explanations and how to test them
- Is aware of complexity and able to converse clearly about issues
- Supports learning by being punctual, courteous, and engaged
- Avoids distracting your instructor and others by leaving class.

## Tentative Schedule:

Week			Chapter
1	09 Jan 2022	Class overview and introduction	
		Definitions, History, and Ethics of Conservation	1
2	16 Jan 2022	Defining and Measuring Biodiversity	2
3	23 Jan 2022	Valuing Biodiversity	3
4	30 Jan 2022	Threats to Biodiversity	4-5
5	06 Feb 2022	Extinction Rates and Genetics	6
6	16 Feb 2022	Endangered Populations and Species	7
7	20 Feb 2022	Reading Break	
8	27 Feb 2022	Captive Breeding and Reintroductions	8
9	06 Mar 2022	Design and Management of Protected Areas	9
10	13 Mar 2022	Conserved Areas and Landscapes	10
11	20 Mar 2022	Restoration Ecology and Conservation Policy	11
12	27 Mar 2022	Conservation Physiology and Behaviour	
13	03 Apr 2022	Global Conservation and Development	12
14	06 Apr 2022	Future of Conservation	13

## Assessment

This marking scheme is subject to change. Exams will be face-to-face.

Midterm	25% (suggested date Feb 28th)
Final	45% (cumulative, date to be announced)
Conservation article	20% (instructions and due date to be posted on Brightspace)
Participation	10% (contributions to our Forum on Brightspace and following news articles posted to Brightspace and elsewhere)

## Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge and respect the lək'wəŋən peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and W̱SÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

## Attendance and absences

Medical documentation for short-term absences is **not required** for the Spring 2023 term (approved by Senate). **Attendance is important.** Students who can not attend due to illness are asked to notify their instructors immediately. If illness, accident, or family affliction causes a student to miss the final exam or to fail to complete any assignment by the end of the term students are required to submit a request for academic concession.

- Policies regarding undergraduate student academic concessions and deferrals are also detailed on the **Undergraduate Records** Students must submit a **Request for Academic Concession**.

## Academic Integrity

Students are required to abide by all academic regulations set as set out in the University calendar, including standards of academic integrity. Violations of academic integrity (e.g. cheating and plagiarism) are considered serious and may result in significant penalties.

Students must abide by UVic academic regulations and observe standards of 'scholarly integrity,' (no plagiarism or cheating). Therefore, exams must be taken individually and not with a friend, classmate, or group, nor can you access notes, course materials, the internet, or other resources while completing the exam. You are also prohibited from sharing any information about the exam with others.

## Copyright

All course content and materials are made available by instructors for educational purposes and for the exclusive use of students registered in their class[1]. The material is protected under copyright law, even if not marked with a ©. Any further use or distribution of materials to others requires the written permission of the instructor, except under fair dealing or another exception in the Copyright Act. Violations may result in disciplinary action under the **Resolution of Non-Academic Misconduct Allegations policy (AC1300)**.

## Class recording

Be aware that sessions in this course **may** be recorded to allow students who are not able to attend to watch later. If the recording is not available, the student is expected to cover the material using posted lectures and notes. The recordings will be posted in Brightspace. Students who have privacy concerns can contact me and will have the option to limit their personal information shared in the recording. If you have other questions or concerns regarding class recording and privacy please contact [privacyinfo@uvic.ca](mailto:privacyinfo@uvic.ca).

## Online conduct

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting critical academic discourse while providing a respectful and supportive learning environment. All members of the university community have the right to this experience and the responsibility to help create such an environment. The University will not tolerate racism, sexualized violence, or any form of discrimination, bullying or harassment.

Please be advised that, by logging into UVic's learning systems or interacting with online resources, and course-related communication platforms, you are engaging in a university activity. All interactions within this environment are subject to the university expectations and policies. Any concerns about student conduct may be reviewed and responded to in accordance with the appropriate university policy.

To report concerns about online student conduct: [onlineconduct@uvic.ca](mailto:onlineconduct@uvic.ca)

## Mental Health

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Diminished mental health can interfere with optimal academic performance. Do your best to engage in self-care and maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone. The source of symptoms might be related to your course work; if so, please speak with me. However, problems with other parts of your life can also contribute to decreased academic performance. The UVic Student Wellness Centre provides cost-free and confidential mental health services to help you manage personal challenges that impact your emotional or academic well-being.

## Accessible Learning

The University of Victoria is committed to creating a learning experience that is as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience any barriers to learning in this course, please feel welcome to discuss your concerns with me. If you have a disability or chronic health condition, or think you may have a disability, you may also want to meet with an advisor at the Centre for Accessible Learning (CAL).

## University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS)

The **UVSS** is a social justice based non-profit run by students, for students and is entirely separate from UVic. As an undergrad student, you are already a member! We work on issues affecting students such as affordability, public transit, sexualized violence, sustainability, student employment, and much more. We fund clubs and course unions, and have several advocacy groups. We also have a Food Bank and Free Store, a Peer Support Centre, and run your health and dental plan. We are here to support you, so please reach out to us at [uvss.ca](http://uvss.ca)!

## Student Support services

Learn Anywhere <https://onlineacademiccommunity.uvic.ca/LearnAnywhere/> is the student support portal for a full range of student academic and support services. Services include: Centre for Academic Communication, Math & Stats Assistance Centre, Counselling Services, Health Services, Library, Ombudsperson, and Computer Help Desk